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NEW YORK • Weekend, September 23-25, 2011

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WEEKEND
NEW YORK
September 23-25, 2011
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DAILY NEWSPAPER



FALL TV guide

- Metro's Top 5 must-see new shows
- Plus, what's in store on ABC this season

{pages 06-11}

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GIANTS ARE LOOKING
FOR REVENGE
SPORTS

{page 21}

IT'S QUIZ TIME
WITH TYRA BANKS
THE WORD

{page 14}

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In the news

Bouncer needed at IHOP

The newly opened IHOP on East 14th Street is anticipating such a rowdy crowd, management hired a bouncer to keep things orderly. An off-duty police officer will keep watch at the diner from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m., according to Eater NY. • METRO/CG

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A 'MANLAND'

**One in five NYers live in poverty**

NEW YORK. From 2009 to 2010, 75,000 New York City residents were pushed into poverty, making the number of New Yorkers who live below the poverty line 20 percent, according to The New York Times. At the same time, the median income in the city dropped by 5 percent since 2007, before the beginning of the recession, to just \$48,743 in 2010. Manhattan has the biggest gap in the country between the poor and the mega-rich, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. • METRO/EAE

**Broadway mementos up for bid**

TIMES SQUARE. Stage celebs hit the streets Sunday for the 25th annual Broadway Flea Market & Grand Auction. The charity event, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., will feature items from Broadway's most beloved shows, from classics to current favorites like "Book of Mormon." Items up for bid include keepsakes signed by Stephen Schwartz and Daniel Radcliffe, as well as backstage passes and walk-on roles. Proceeds go to Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS. • METRO/TMM

Cell service coming soon

NEW YORK. Transit officials confirmed that straphangers on the L train will be able to use their cell phones underground starting next week. Beginning Tuesday, a pilot program will offer service to five 14th Street corridor stations as well as the 23rd Street A,C,E station. • METRO/EAE

Tunnel Connection

► A worker hoses down the 485-ton tunnel-boring machine as it breaks through to the Lexington Avenue-63rd Street station Thursday.

PHOTO BY METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY / PATRICK CASHIN

Second Avenue breakthrough

Workers completed digging for the first phase of the Second Avenue Subway on Thursday, when the MTA's tunnel-boring machine made it to the Lexington Av-63 St. station. The completion marks a major milestone in the \$4.45 billion project. • METRO/EAE

Attackers slashing victims on subway

► Four underground knife attacks in just over two weeks ► Riders cut across the face ► Police search for female suspect in two Bronx assaults

Four people were viciously assaulted in the last few weeks in a string of knife attacks on the subway. One injury required 30 stitches.

The most recent attack happened Wednesday.

At around 2:30 a.m., a knife-wielding man grabbed a woman at the Fort Hamilton Parkway F train station. Putting a knife to her throat, he demanded her purse and her iPhone, which she gave him.

Before he left, he also ordered her to take off her underwear.

On Friday, Sept. 16, a 34-year-old man was

slashed on his right cheek while riding the A train near the Rockaway Boulevard station. He needed 30 stitches to repair the gash.

And police are looking for a woman who is slashing train riders in the face in the Bronx.

Her first victim, a 19-year-old woman, was slashed across the face on Sept. 6 while riding a northbound 4 train near 170th Street. Six days later, an 18-year-old woman riding the 4 train near Mt. Eden Avenue was cut on her face.

Police say they are looking for a black or Hispanic



► Sketch of Bronx slasher

"It just shows that you really have to be aware."

ANDREW ALBERT

woman, about 17 to 25. MTA board member Andrew Albert said he cannot remember such vicious attacks.

"It has been quite a while," he said, adding that not since a lunatic ran around stabbing people with hypodermic needles in 1997 has he heard of something similar.

As crime inches up, so do nerves about a return to the city's 1990s crime levels.

"I sure hope everything isn't going back to the way it was," Albert said.

ALISON BOWEN
alison.bowen@metro.us

Not gang violence

Even though fall is the time for gang violence — as gangs initiate teens returning to school — a local expert said this

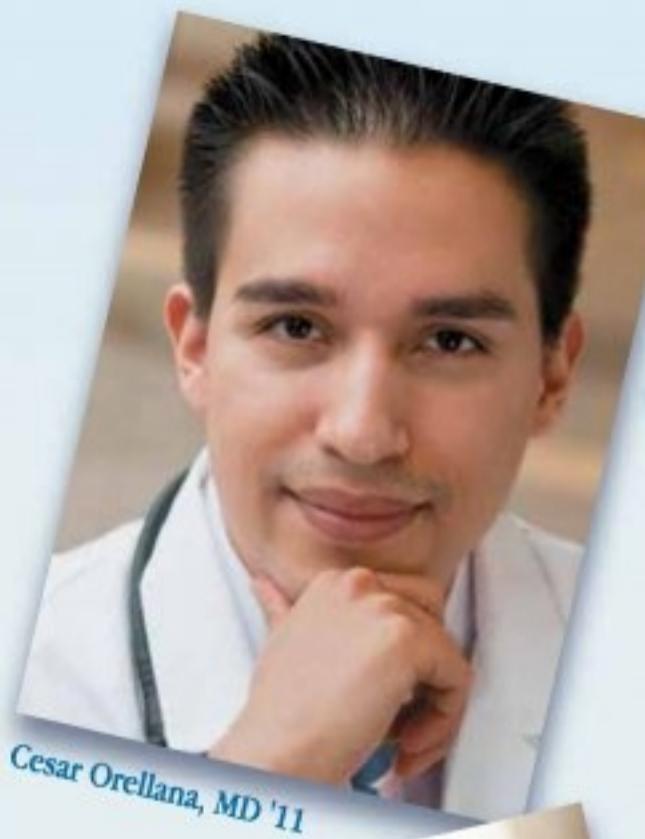
doesn't look like gang violence. The female suspect struck twice, and one slashing is usually enough for a gang initiation, said Iesha Sekou, director of Street Corner Resources, a Harlem-based group working

against gun and gang violence. "This seems to be someone acting out of anger," she told Metro, but cautioned the slasher: "You could have the whole train turn on you. What happens then?"

• ALISON BOWEN

13,073

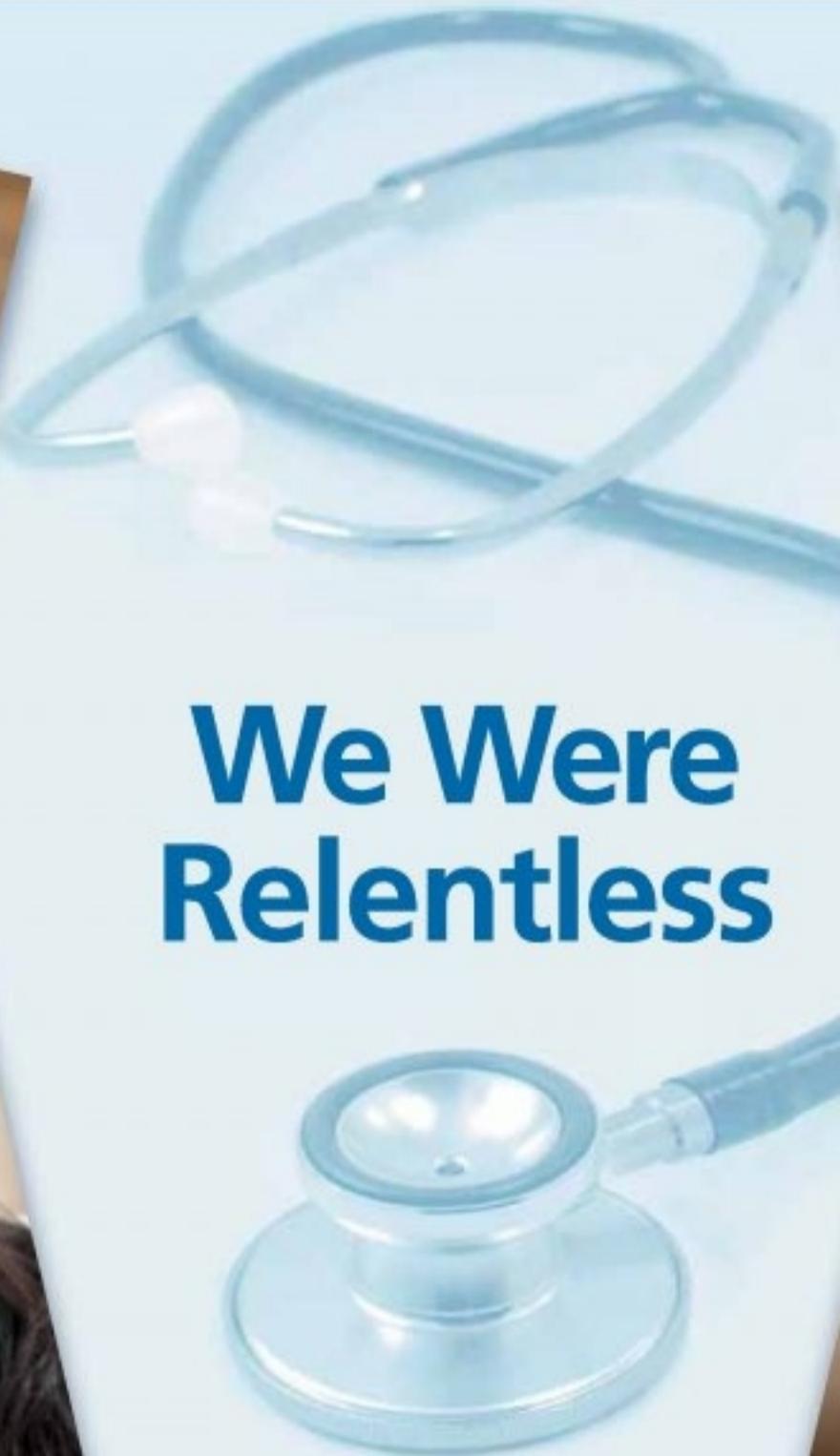
Felony assaults through Sept. 11, 2011, an 8 percent increase from last year. There were 12,133 felony assaults through Sept. 11, 2010, according to the NYPD.



Cesar Orellana, MD '11



Puja Vora, MD '11



We Were Relentless



Meredith Murphy, DVM '11



John Graham, DVM '11

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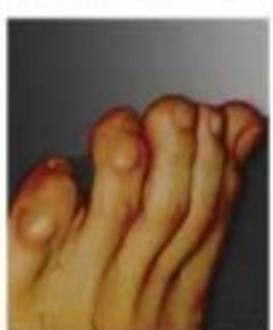
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WEEKEND, SEPTEMBER 23-25, 2011

Graffiti with a heart

► Street artist tags New Yorkers' trash with feel-good messages

One man's trash is another man's blank canvas.

A street tagger named Marcus Motion turns the city's trash piling up on street corners into inspirational messages for passersby.

He scrawled "Look how pretty you are," on a broken mirror on Second Avenue. "You deserve better," can be found in Borough Park.

He writes his messages in Sharpie, chalk or even with masking tape on discarded mattresses, ironing boards and pieces of old cardboard. His tagging can be found mainly on the Lower East Side and in the East Village, but pops up throughout Brooklyn and even in New Jersey.

Motion says he painted murals on the walls of buildings for years, until he

"The more I write about my hardships, the more relatable my messages are to people. And I think that's important."

MARCUS MOTION

realized writing is a more powerful way to spread his message, he told Metro.

He chooses to write on objects headed for the Dumpster — instead of privately-owned buildings — out of respect for the city, he said. Motion said he understands why many view traditional graffiti as disrespectful.

"You can't spread a positive message if you're out there destroying things," he said.

MARY ANN GEORGANTOPOULOS



► Marcus Motion lays down some positive graffiti in Bay Ridge, Brooklyn.

Trains stall in tunnel

Almost 3,000 NJ Transit riders were stuck for hours during Thursday's morning commute when two Manhattan-bound NJ Transit trains lost power and stalled in the tunnel near Penn Station. They clogged the tunnel, marooning other trains.

Software developer Jason Uechi, 43, was on one of the stranded trains. He boarded his usual 8:20 a.m. train from Montclair, N.J., but didn't make it into Penn Station until 11:30 a.m.

"The train just limped to a stop," he said.

The worst part was that conductors weren't communicating regularly with passengers for the first hour, he said.

Some cars lost air conditioning and others lost electricity all together, said NJ Transit officials.

One train had to be



► A view inside the stalled NJ Transit train Thursday

MTA rejects subway ad

NEW YORK. A pro-Israel ad from conservative blogger Pamela Geller was rejected by the MTA Thursday.

The ad contains language that does not conform with the MTA's advertising standards, wrote the transit authority in their rejection letter. Ads that "de-mean an individual or group of individuals," are not put up in the subway system, according to the MTA.

Geller's ad used the word "savage" to describe enemies of Israel. Geller vowed she will make good on her threat to sue the MTA over the rejection. "I hope the MTA is prepared to go to the Supreme Court, because we are," Geller said. ■ METRO/EAE

JASON UECHI

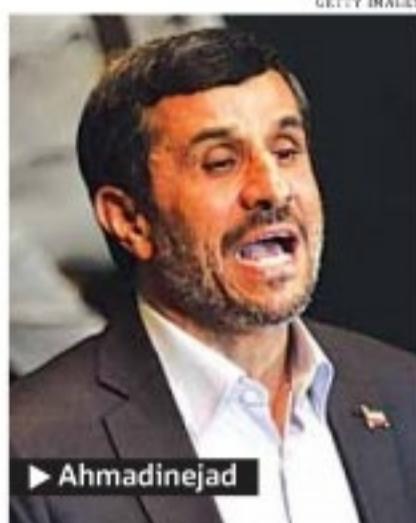
Holocaust, 9/11 in doubt for Iran head

► Ahmadinejad caused UN walkout after using speech to criticize history ► Anti-Semitic, US spokesman says

Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad attacked Western powers on Thursday for a catalog of misdeeds, but his address to the United Nations failed to mention Tehran's disputed nuclear program.

The U.S. delegation walked out when Ahmadinejad said "arrogant powers" threatened anyone who questioned the Holocaust and the Sept. 11 attacks on the United States with sanctions and military action. Other Western delegations soon made their exit.

Ahmadinejad made only a passing reference to the Palestinian issue which has



overshadowed this year's U.N. General Assembly and did not comment on the Palestinian plan to ask the U.N. Security Council to recognize their nascent state.

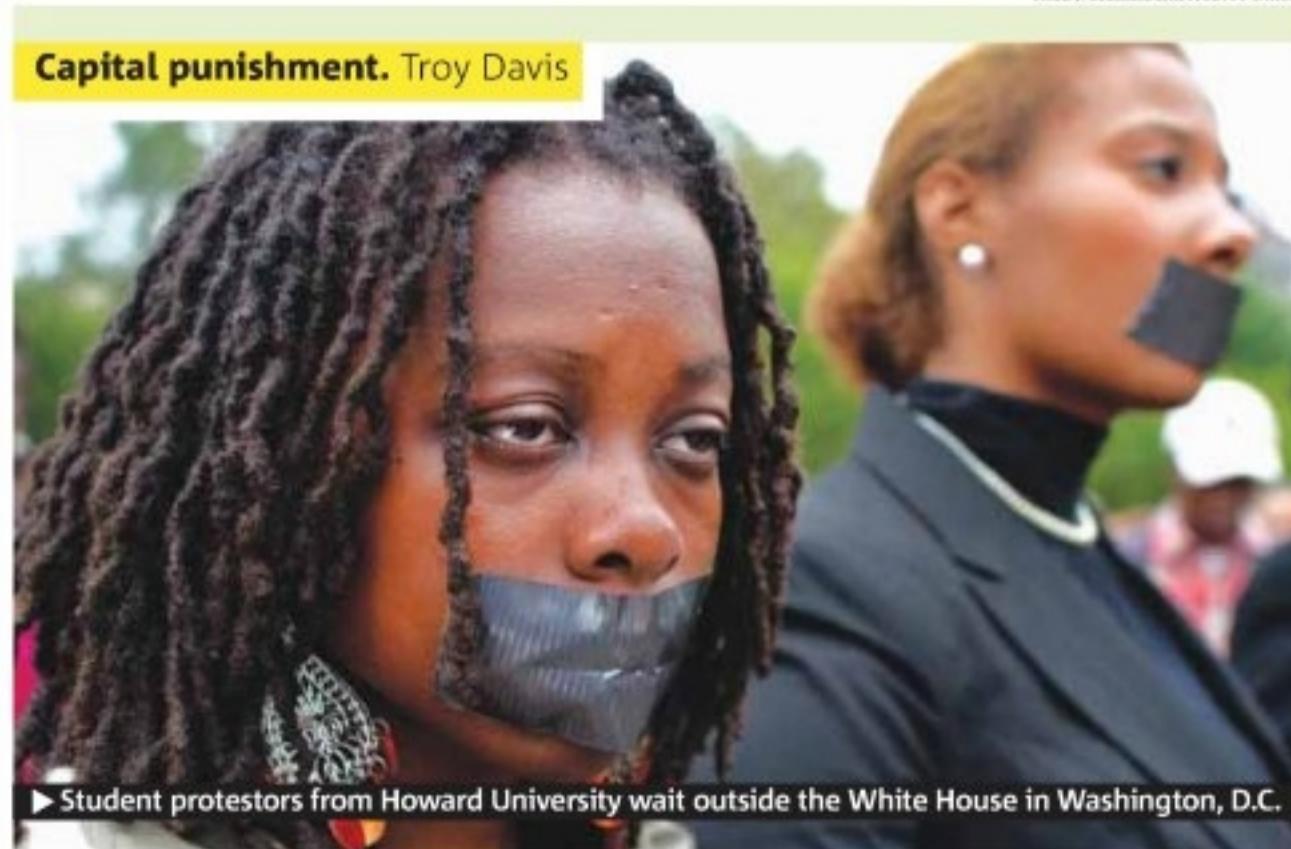
He accused the United

States of using the "mysterious" 9/11 attacks as a pretext to launch wars on Iraq and Afghanistan. The United States and its allies "view Zionism as a sacred notion and ideology," the Iranian leader said.

Mark Kornblau, spokesman for the U.S. mission at the United Nations, condemned Ahmadinejad's remarks.

"Mr. Ahmadinejad had a chance to address his own people's aspirations for freedom and dignity, but instead he again turned to abhorrent anti-Semitic slurs and despicable conspiracy theories," Kornblau said in a statement. REUTERS

Capital punishment. Troy Davis



Georgia execution despite doubts

The state of Georgia executed convicted murderer Troy Davis late on Wednesday in a case that drew international attention because of claims by his advocates that he may have been innocent. Some witnesses have said they were coerced by police to testify against him and some say another man committed the crime. REUTERS

Romney gets friend on the right

WASHINGTON. Rep. Darrell Issa (R-Calif.), a leading Obama administration crit-

ic, endorsed Mitt Romney for president on Thursday, bolstering the conservative credentials of the former Massachusetts governor.

As chairman of the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, Issa has become a hero

on the Republican right for running investigations into Democratic President Barack Obama's White House. His committee is now probing the administration's involvement in the collapse of solar equipment maker Solyndra. REUTERS

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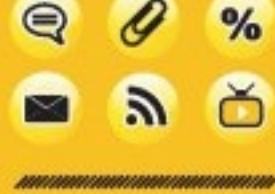
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'2 Broke Girls'

► **Premise:** Working gal (Kat Dennings) meets fallen socialite (Beth Behrs) in hipsterville, Brooklyn. Two girls from completely different economic and social worlds join forces to open a cupcake shop — one day, if they can save enough money from their current waitressing gig.

► **Why we're watching:** This totally enjoyable odd couple trades more hilariously crude one-liners than we would have ever expected on CBS. As hard-scrabble Max, Dennings in particular is fiercely funny — especially when she's chewing out the fauxhemian types who are becoming her beloved greasy spoon's new clientele.

(Mondays at 8:30 p.m. on CBS)

'New Girl'

► **Premise:** A socially awkward girl (Zooey Deschanel) who just got dumped moves in with three guys for a fresh start.

► **Why we're watching:** As Jess, Deschanel embodies the everywoman — well, minus those adorable saucer eyes, killer bangs and gorgeous voice, maybe. She admits she's "not good at hiding her crazy" — she makes up songs on the spot and sings them out loud, often — and sees the good in most everything. We can't help but root for her and this quirky-smart sitcom.

(Tuesdays at 9 p.m. on Fox)

'Person of Interest'

► **Premise:** A mysterious billionaire (Michael Emerson) has built a machine that, using surveillance technology, can predict crimes before they happen. He enlists an ex-CIA agent (Jim Caviezel) to help him enact vigilante justice.

► **Why we're watching:** When executive producer J.J. Abrams does mystery and paranoia, we pay attention. Not that we always know what's going on, mind you, but this commentary on Big Brother's watchful eye has us intrigued. Plus, we want to find out if Caviezel can take down a man by simply throwing him one of those intense death stares.

(Thursdays at 9 p.m. on CBS)

'Pan Am'

► **Premise:** The 1960s take flight through the eyes of the crew on a new Pan Am jet.

► **Why we're watching:** Style gets top billing here — from the luxurious flight cabin to the gorgeous retro costumes — but there's substance to back it up, too, as the series delves into the cultural and political revolutions of the '60s. Why wouldn't you want to climb aboard? (Premieres Sunday at 10 p.m. on ABC.)

'Suburgatory'

► **Premise:** A single dad (Jeremy Sisto) moves his teen daughter (Jane Levy) out of New York City for a shot at a "better life" in the 'burbs.

► **Why we're watching:** There's a sweet "Gilmore Girls" vibe to the single parent-daughter relationship in "Suburgatory" — in this case, dad is the young, hip parent making sacrifices to do what's best for his kid. We forgot how charming Sisto can be in a comedy; actress Levy, full of snark and heart, is our favorite newcomer of the fall.

(Premieres Sept. 28 at 8:30 p.m. on ABC.)

 **AMBER RAY**
amber.ray@metro.us



From left: Kat Dennings and Beth Behrs star in "2 Broke Girls."
From left: Jim Caviezel and Michael Emerson star in "Person of Interest."
Christina Ricci stars in "Pan Am."
From left: Jane Levy and Jeremy Sisto star in "Suburgatory."

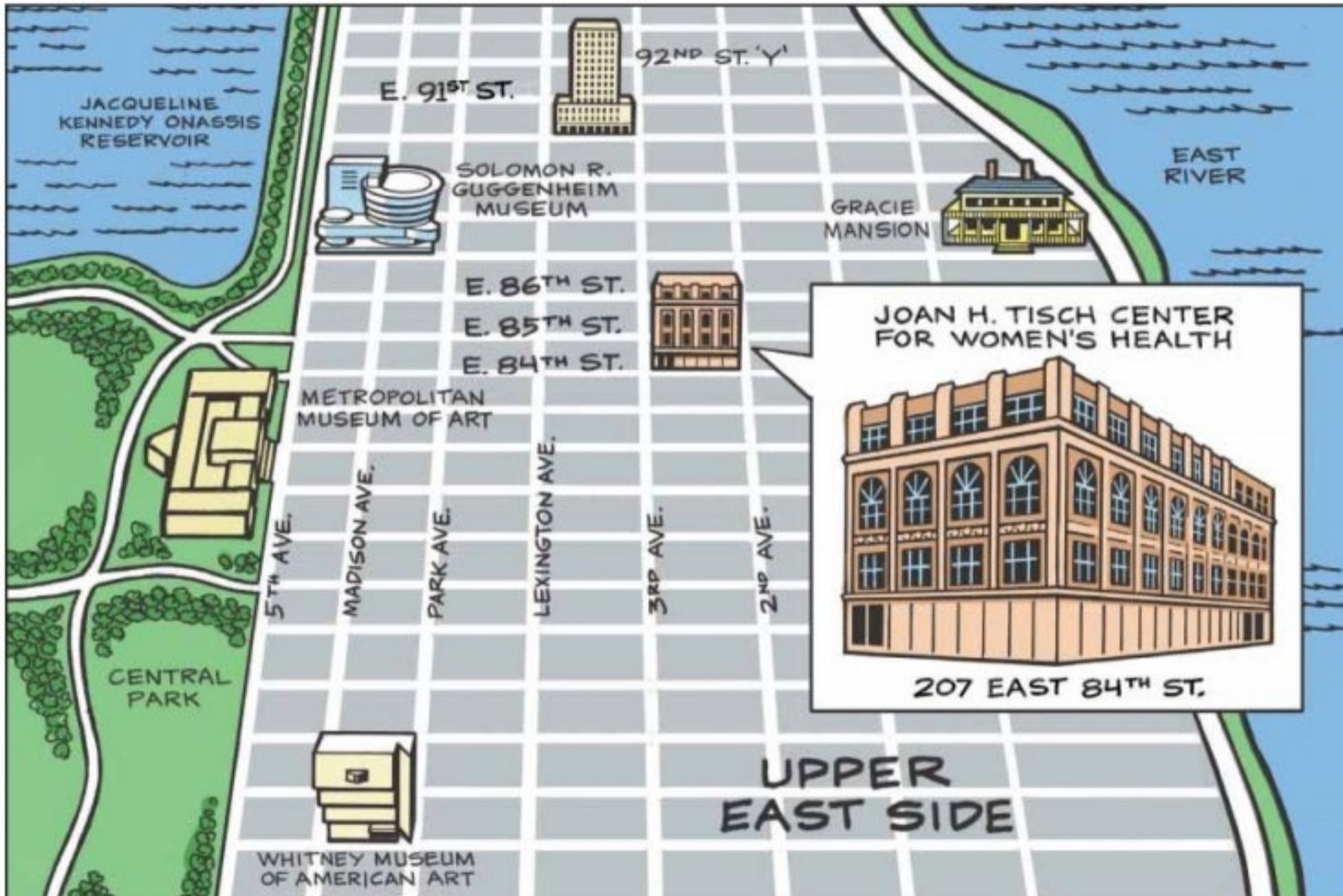
PHOTOS: RICHARD CARTWRIGHT/CBS, GREG GAYNE/FX, JEFFREY R. STAAB/CBS, PATRICK BARBER/ABC, KAREN NEAL/ABC

WEEKEND

FALL TV GUIDE TOP 5 MUST-SEE NEW SERIES

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— Joshua Rothkopf, **Time Out New York**



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— A.O. Scott, **The New York Times**

“HYPNOTIC FROM START TO FINISH.”

— Will Leitch, **YAHOO! THE PROJECTOR**

“BROOKS IS SENSATIONAL.”

— Joe Morgenstern, **THE WALL STREET JOURNAL**

“★★★★★ GOSLING MESMERIZES.”

— Peter Travers, **Rolling Stone**

“GOSLING IS POSITIVELY ELECTRIFYING.”

— Rex Reed, **THE NEW YORK OBSERVER**

“★★★★★”

— Jessica Wedemeyer,

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WEEKEND, SEPTEMBER 23-25, 2011

fall tv guide: abc

Scene-stealer: Lana Parrilla, ‘Once Upon a Time’

FALL TV GUIDE



In present-day Storybrooke, Maine, the fairy tale characters we know and love — Snow White, Prince Charming, and even Jiminy Cricket — have been trapped without their happy endings, perpetually stuck in time via a curse. Lana Parrilla gets to play the baddie who put them there.

“I’m having a blast,” says the actress, who plays the Evil Queen with deliciously cruel flair.

But the residents of Storybrooke — including, seemingly, the queen — are unaware of their true identities. In this real-world parallel to the lost fairy tale realm, Parrilla plays the mayor, Regina, who isn’t much kinder than her alter ego.

“I’ve worked pretty hard at showing the contrast between the two characters,” Parrilla says. “The queen is very powerful and puts everything out there, where Regina, she masks everything. I think she’s a much more complex character, but I love them both. It’s a lot of fun.”

Ups and downs

‘Revenge’

As the ladies of Wisteria Lane prepare to move on when “Desperate Housewives” signs off this season, you’re going to need a new bitchy, backstabbing drama to fill the void. Set in the Hamptons and citing “The Count of Monte Cristo” as inspiration, “Revenge” stars Emily VanCamp as a mysterious woman who moves to the tony community, plotting vengeance on those who destroyed her family 17 years ago. (Wednesdays at 10 p.m. on ABC)



‘Last Man Standing’ / ‘Man Up!’

If you were to believe ABC execs, men are having major identity crises. We can forgive “Last Man Standing” — if only because we’ve seen this schtick from Tim Allen before (“Home Improvement”). As for “Man Up!”, in which guys feel emasculated because their war experience is exclusive to video games, there’s no way we can muster as much enthusiasm. (“Last Man Standing” premieres Oct. 11 at 10 p.m.; “Man Up!” premieres Oct. 18 at 8:30 p.m., both on ABC.)

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TV watch list

'All My Children'

DRAMA. The residents of Pine Valley make one last dramatic exit before ABC replaces the 41-year-old soap opera with a food-focused chat show, "The Chew," on Monday. Can they pack a wedding, divorce, faked death and bout of amnesia into one episode? At the very least, there will be a lot of tears.

Series finale, Friday, 1 p.m., ABC

'A Gifted Man'

DRAMA. A hotshot neurosurgeon (Patrick Wilson) sees dead people — or, more accurately, his dead ex-wife, who haunts him (lovingly, not creepily) in the hopes that he'll live a little more altruistically.

Series premiere, Friday, 8 p.m., CBS

'The Simpsons'

COMEDY. You voted, now find out if unexpected couple "Nedna" — that's Ned Flanders and Edna Krabappel — stay together for Season 23. Season premiere, Sunday, 8 p.m., Fox

• AMBER RAY

MTV2 'Must See'

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► From left: Karine Vanasse, Michael Mosley, Margot Robbie, Mike Vogel, Christina Ricci and Kelli Garner star in "Pan Am."

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FLY AWAY

FALL TV GUIDE

- 'Pan Am' takes viewers back to a time of luxury air travel
- Reliving the 1960s in the skies

Once upon a time, commercial air travel was glamorous, a luxury devoid of pat downs and tipsy with the promise of adventure — not to mention martinis. Harkening back to a day when the friendly skies were just that is the new ABC drama, "Pan Am."

"It's escapism at its best, at a time when, for a moment, the world kind of opened and embraced everywhere we were going," says star Mike Vogel, who plays a bright-eyed pi-

lot flying his way up the company ladder.

The series takes full advantage of his metaphor — "Pan Am," which takes place in 1963, not only taps into the nostalgia of the industry with gorgeous costuming and set design and stories uninhibited by TSA regulations, but it also delves into the burgeoning cultural revolution of the era.

"For the stewardesses, there was this sense of excitement and freedom," says star Christina Ricci,

whose bohemian character takes the gig as an opportunity to explore the world. "The job allowed these women to have a freedom that they weren't really given in a regular sort of role in life at that time," she explains. "Yes, they did have to pass through girdle checks and grooming checks, but by going through those things they were then allowed to travel freely and ... be in charge of their own lives."

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High-flyers

The Pan Am stewardess

The opportunities afforded a Pan Am stewardess were rare for the 1960s, but not without old-fashioned contradictions.

"It was a coveted position at the time for young women," says series creator Jack Orman. "They needed to be college educated. They needed to speak several

languages. They were really pioneers in a lot of ways. So the idea that they have to be subjected to girdle checks and weigh-ins, I think adds a certain realism — but also an interesting, dramatic twist to the show."

Producing what she knows

"Pan Am" producer Nancy Hult Ganis knew there were great stories to be

mined out of a series centered on the heyday of the airline. She was so sure because she worked as a Pan Am stewardess in the late-1960s through the mid-'70s. "The experience opened the world to us and helped us understand and appreciate those different cultures and customs," she says. "[There were] a lot of funny fish-out-of-water moments as we learned to navigate through different worlds."

The schedule

MONDAY

- 8-10 p.m. "Dancing with the Stars"
- 10-11 p.m. "Castle"

TUESDAY

- 8-8:30 p.m. "Last Man Standing"
- 8:30-9 p.m. "Man Up!"
- 9-10 p.m. "Dancing with the Stars" (results show)
- 10-11 p.m. "Body of Proof"

WEDNESDAY

- 8-8:30 p.m. "The Middle"
- 8:30-9 p.m. "Suburgatory"
- 9-9:30 p.m. "Modern Family"
- 9:30-10 p.m. "Happy Endings"
- 10-11 p.m. "Revenge"

THURSDAY

- 8-9 p.m. "Charlie's Angels"
- 9-10 p.m. "Grey's Anatomy"
- 10-11 p.m. "Private Practice"

FRIDAY

- 8-9 p.m. "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition"
- 9-10 p.m. "Shark Tank"
- 10-11 p.m. "20/20"

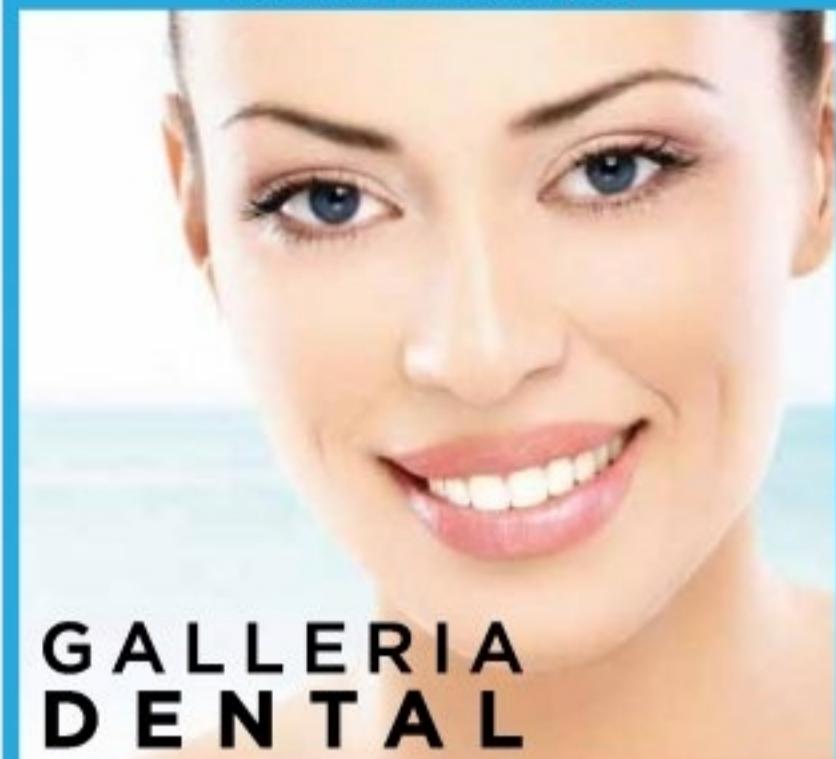
SUNDAY

- 8-9 p.m. "Once Upon a Time"
- 9-10 p.m. "Desperate Housewives"
- 10-11 p.m. "Pan Am"

► **Thank you for choosing Pan Am:** Though the airline that is synonymous with the jet age is defunct, a New England company now owns the rights to the Pan Am name and logo. Producers were able to negotiate a deal for their use on the series.

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The feed ...
It's TV premiere week! Readers write in with their thoughts on the premiere of "Two and a Half Men" (now with Ashton!), @ngulick98 and @Wolfdoom chat about "New Girl" and @MellyLove3 gives some love. And, hey, a dog in sunglasses!

► @aartivirani Not loving the hobo look and can't help but think he's just playing an extension of Kelso on #That70sShow

► @happywithmyname He was okay. It was still filled with the same lame humor & predictable plot lines.

► @GirlMakesGood not funny, but then again, I never thought two and a half men was funny. I don't get the show's humor.

► @v0xtheriot kutcher's new look makes him look like jesus

► @ngulick98 #new-girl moments so awkward I actually cringed.

► @Wolfdoom The Lord of the Rings joke was funny, but that was about it #newgirl

► @MellyLove3 your article on Taylor Armstrong was a nice tone, I wish I could get a free puppy too after reading that.



THE WORD

Metro's **Dorothy Robinson** shares her take on the world of gossip [@dorothyatmetro](#) dorothy.robinson@metro.us



A little Tyra quiz for your morning commute

On Wednesday night, Metro met the queen of "smize" herself, **Tyra Banks**, before she signed copies of her new young adult novel, "Modelland," at Barnes and Noble in New York City. The full interview with Banks can be found

[www.metro.us](#)

MORE GOSSIP

[WWW.METRO.US/WORD](#)
DOROTHY ROBINSON'S WORD BLOG

at [www.metro.us](#), but we thought it would be more fun to turn a few of the snippets into a quiz. Do you speak Tyra? Read on for a "mystical, fantastical adventure"!

— With additional reporting by Sally Morris sally.morris@metro.us



► Banks on Wednesday night. Smize, girlfriend!

1 "They can expect a wild, wacky, fun, mystical, fantastical adventure."

This described:

- A. The latest "Game of Thrones" episode.
- B. A new ride at Sesame Place.
- C. Her novel "Modelland," and the main character, a young misfit model named Tookie De La Creme.
- D. What it's like to touch Robert Pattinson's hair.

2 "I can do it myself in 20 minutes. But back in the day, yes, it did take a long time."

Tyra is referring to:

- A. The amount of time it took to write a chapter.
- B. The time it takes to put on her fake eyelashes.
- C. How long it takes to eat lunch.
- D. The time it takes to crush the dreams of a "Top Model" contestant.

3 "They are apples and ... pine cones."

This is Tyra's:

- A. Comparison of writing and modeling.
- B. What she calls her lady parts.
- C. A new diet fad.
- D. Latest Tyra Banks Brand™ potpourri.

4 "The 'Thor' guy. But it might be genetic, it might be just how his eyes are shaped so that doesn't count."

Tyra is talking about:

- A. Actors who could really use an eyebrow grooming.
- B. Actors who are secretly blind.
- C. Actors and actresses who have good "smizing" ability.
- D. Eugenics.

5 "Can it be bottled? I think it can be bottled in a lesson. But not necessarily in a physical bottle."

Is Tyra referring to:

- A. Her best friend, who just happens to be a genie.
- B. Learning "fierceness."
- C. The essence of her "Tyra-ness"
- D. Urine.

1.C 2.B 3.A 4.C 5.B

Talking points

Wilde and Reynolds?

Olivia Wilde is off the market. When asked by Britain's OK magazine if she's dating anyone, the actress gives a simple response: "Yeah." While she's not revealing the identity of her new suitor, she hints that he certainly knows how to impress her. "I like it if the guy possesses creativity and doesn't take me to a boring restaurant or a boring whatever but comes up with an inter-

esting location. I like to be surprised, for sure," she says. Coincidentally, Wilde has been spotted spending time with **Ryan Reynolds** — and the pair looked anything but bored.

Pitt needs to stop talking for a bit

At this point, **Brad Pitt** is probably sorry he opened his mouth at all. The "Moneyball" star is still on damage control for comments he made about his marriage to ex-wife **Jennifer Aniston**. "I don't know what was pieced together or put together. All



I know is that my point was, the best thing I'd done as a father is be sure that my kids have a good mother. That's all I was, or am, trying to say. It has no reference to the past," Pitt says in an interview with **Matt Lauer** for the "Today" show, referencing partner **Angelina Jolie**. "I think it's a shame that I can't say something nice about Angie without Jen being drug in. You know, she doesn't deserve it."

ScarJo's stroll with Kieran

Putting her nude photo scandal behind her, **Scar-**

lett Johansson is reportedly focusing on her love life. The actress was spotted taking a cozy midnight stroll in Paris with **Kieran Culkin** before flying back to the U.S. together the next day, according to Us Weekly. But then she's also reportedly been getting friendly with **Justin Timberlake**, as the pair were spotted "hardcore flirting" at a recent party in New York. "Other guys were trying to talk with Scarlett, but she was only focused on Justin," a source says, adding that they partied until 5:30 a.m. before heading back to her midtown penthouse.



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A few furry monsters and non-monsters for you

1: Gerard Butler and Michelle Monaghan arrived at the "Machine Gun Preacher" Los Angeles premiere at the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences on

Wednesday in Beverly Hills.

2: Beyoncé attended the launch of her new fragrance PULSE at Dream Downtown on Wednesday in New York City.

3: Maggie Gyllenhaal posed for a photo during the unveiling for her 'got milk?' ad at City Bakery on Thursday in New

York City.

4: Toni Morrison spoke at Lisner Auditorium at The George Washington University on Wednesday in Washington, DC.

5: Cookie Monster and Elmo visited "The Morning Mash Up" on SiriusXM Hits 1 at the SiriusXM Studios on

Wednesday in New York City.

6: Eva Longoria attended the "Desperate Housewives" Final Season Kick-Off Party at Universal Studios on Wednesday in Universal City, California.

1: JASON MERRITT/GETTY IMAGES
2: KEVIN MAZUR/WIREIMAGE
3: JONATHAN COTTRELL/GETTY IMAGES
4: ERIS CONNOR/GETTY IMAGES
5: KELSON BARNARD/GETTY IMAGES
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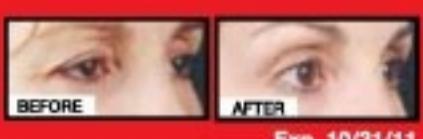
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It's killer bad

► Despite some material from a very original story, lame acting and the Hollywood-ification of this plot make even Robert De Niro look bad — and that's bad

'Killer Elite'

Director: Gary McKendry

Cast: Jason Statham, Clive Owen, Robert De Niro

Rating: R

Grade: **00000**

It should be exciting, really, given the source material: British ex-military officer Ranulph Fiennes' supposedly true account of the SAS's dirty dealings in the Middle East in the 1980s. Stay with us now: The film follows a mercenary (Jason Statham) whose mentor (Robert De Niro) gets him tied up with an Omani oil magnate who wants three retired British soldiers killed because their covert meddling caused the deaths of his sons. But wait, there's more. Another retired British soldier (Clive Owen) is tasked by a shadowy secret society to keep the targets alive. It's ... yeah.

Some spirited, late-in-the-game fight choreography — including Statham working his way out of a room while tied to a chair — is fun, but not enough to save the film. "Killer Elite" is weighed down by its own



► Surprise, surprise. Jason Statham in an action sequence. Yawn.

moral ambiguity and self-seriousness. The movie has its share of unintentional laughs, though, like Owen's mustache or Statham's pronunciation of the word "Allah." But what's hard to laugh at is De Niro's per-

formance. The only way he could put less effort into it would be by not showing up. It's just sad.

 **NED EHRBAR**

METRO WORLD NEWS IN LOS ANGELES



Jacob loses out again

'Abduction'

Grade: **00000**

"Abduction" is supposed to be the breakout role for "Twilight" third wheel, Taylor Lautner. It was his chance to prove he's not only an actor who can headline a film, but also an action star. Unfortunately, he picked a project that is poorly written, lazily executed and often unintentionally funny.

Lautner is a high school student whose work on a class project about missing persons leads him to a website featuring a photo of a familiar face: his own. Soon, a chain of events unfolds that leaves him and the girl next door (Lily Collins) on the run.

In theory, "Abduction" should be a terse thriller — an adolescent "Bourne Identity" — but instead, it's a teen angst film, which honestly may be what they were going for. But any concerns about the quality of the movie certainly won't stop rabid "Twilight" fans from showing up.  **JOEL AMOS**

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Also opening

► 'Dolphin Tale'

Not since *Flipper* have critics so roundly embraced a family tale about a friendly dolphin. This one's about the efforts to develop a prosthetic tail.

► 'Machine Gun Preacher'

Gerard Butler takes on the real life story of Sam Childers, a Born-Again Christian who finds himself leading a crusade for the impoverished populations of Sudan.

► 'Puncture'

Another true-life story comes



► Nope, it's not *Flipper*. It's Winter the dolphin.

out this week — this time about two lawyers (one, a part-time junkie) who take on the health care industry when it comes to light that hospitals have not been purchasing life-saving new products due to "pay-to-play" schemes.

55% of Metro readers are regular moviegoers.

Source: Scarborough R2 2010

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All's good in 'The Wood'

► Effort goes a long way, even if the tale is somewhat familiar ► How far will one journalist go for a story?

Cliched, simplistic and creakily old-fashioned, "The Wood," at Rattlestick Playwrights Theater, nonetheless has the guts and gumption to keep you hooked to its timeworn tale of a newspaperman who'll do anything for a story. The journalist in question, about whom playwright Dan Klores has taken some creative liberties, is real-life reporter Mike McAlary, a Pulitzer Prize-winner for breaking the Abner Louima story in 1997 while grappling with cancer.

John Viscardi's performance as McAlary is straightforward, which is what makes the production

If you go

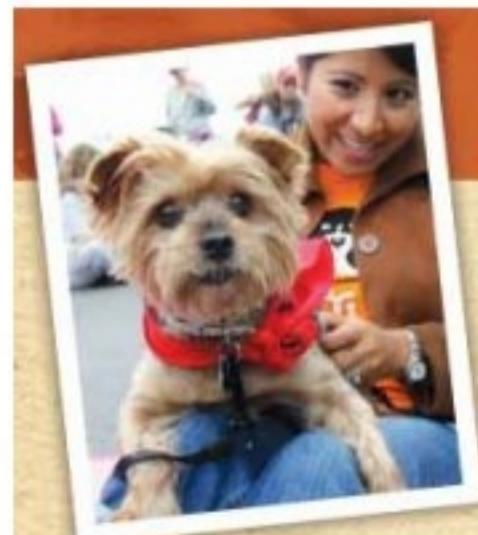
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work. As written, McAlary is a bit of a martyr on the altar of journalism, who cavalierly misses chemotherapy sessions to chase stories. And of course he has a gruff exterior with a heart of gold. But Viscardi somehow finds a believable core to this hackneyed character, not quite underplaying but never overplaying either.

By the time the second act rolls around, we're fully immersed in the Louima story, an episode that's so gripping it carries the play without even trying. Louima was a Haitian immigrant picked up by the police and sodomized with a plunger handle at the stationhouse. Vladimir Versailles deftly conveys his terror and his pain, and the interaction between him and Viscardi is compelling.

"The Wood" can seem cloyingly familiar, but its passion is genuine and the tale it tells is solid.

MICHAEL BRACKEN
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'Moneyball' throws a curve by entertaining

'Moneyball'

Director: Bennett Miller
Cast: Brad Pitt, Jonah Hill
Rating: PG-13
Grade: 100%

The synopsis sounds very dry, but so did "The Social Network" before you actually sat down and watched it. "Moneyball" took what could be the dry subject of baseball stats and spiced it up with complex characters and a compelling story while leaving sports movie clichés behind.

The movie moves at about half the speed of "The Social Network" but that's OK — we're not dealing with the fast-moving world of cyberspace here but the more relaxed pace of America's favorite pastime. It's a slow build, but the seventh inning stretch is exciting.

But this isn't a baseball



movie and despite the game footage, it's not a sports movie either. Brad Pitt and Jonah Hill, in a rare serious role, dominate the movie with their behind the scenes stories. Like "The Social Network" "Moneyball" places the onus on the characters and not the technology that drives the story. We've seen baseball movies before, but never from this angle.

Synopsis

Based on the book of the same name by Michael Lewis, "Moneyball" is about Billy Beane (Pitt), the real-life general manager of the Oakland A's.

► Faced with having to piece together a pro team with a budget a fourth the size as the New York Yankees, he breaks with years of baseball tradition — using scouts, instinct and guts — to find a scientific method to build a team on the cheap instead. With a Yale-trained economist (Jonah Hill) he creates sabermetrics, a mind-boggling combination of facts, figures and computer algorithms to recruit his team.

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Starting with the man in the 'Mirror'

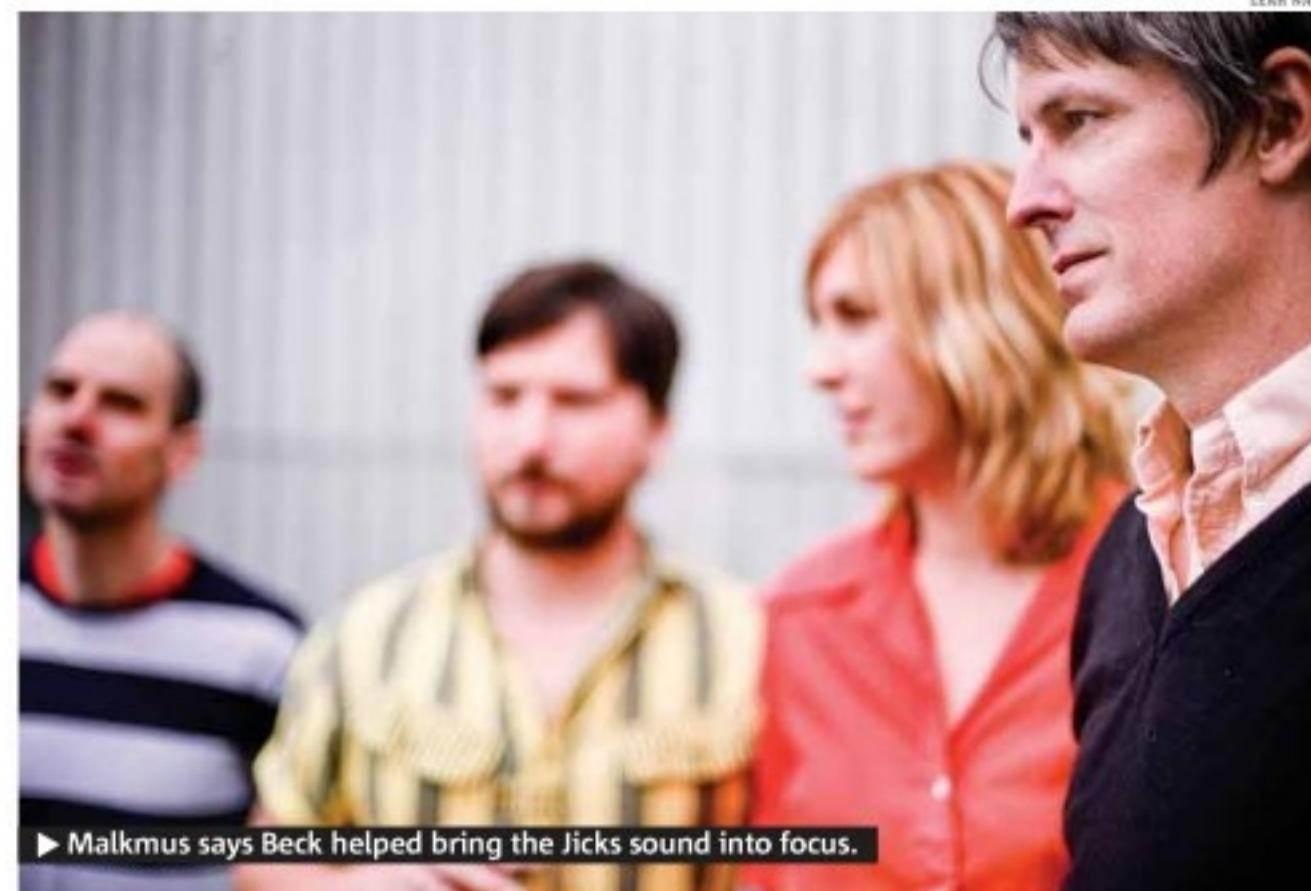
Stephen Malkmus just moved his wife and two children to Berlin. But it has nothing to do with the reasons rock 'n' rollers have traditionally gone there.

"Even though I know this is a big place to take drugs and party, it's also like a really child-friendly place, too," he says. "We just thought a change was good for our life situation."

A change has done the former Pavement frontman good in his professional situation, too. For his fifth al-

bum with his band, the Jicks, he brought in Beck to produce. The result is "Mirror Traffic," a collection that sees Malkmus' witty turns of phrases married to sounds that are more artsy than the straight-ahead guitar sounds he had lately been seeming to favor.

Walk me through the evolution of Beck being somebody you might have admired as a contemporary to somebody that could produce your album.



It's a really short walk. He called and said he was a producer now. I hadn't heard from him and then out of the blue ... he mentioned that. It just happened to coincide with the time we were going to be recording, and we were looking to find someone cool who wasn't a really obvious choice. He

just basically called us and in my mind it was done, and we should just go there and see how he does stuff. It wasn't a big decision. It was like, made for me.

Were there any moments in working with him where there was any resistance, either on your part or his?

Well, yeah. He would often

want to make things a little less classic rock-sounding. Some of the songs that were just more standard Jicks songs, he would want to put the guitars in direct and plug them right into the board without an amp and make them sound more up front and things poke out more. Sometimes I would

think, "that's odd." It gave it different sound, which is important. It doesn't necessarily sound like everything sounds like now, which is probably not good for selling records, but overall it's good. I think he was just trying to get some sort of sonic signature that was different; different from what we did before and different than other things, and I think that's a good idea.

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The rundown**THEATER****Amuse Bouche: NY****Clown Theatre Festival**

Now through Sunday, The Brick Theater, 575 Metropolitan Ave., Williamsburg, \$15

As fodder between last year's Clown Theatre Festival and the one planned for 2012, the Brick offers an amuse bouche of clowning artistry. New clowning includes a lovestruck professor on a quest for his beloved's "Bezinkule," two bird frenemies who "Flocked" to the U.S./Mexico border and "Morro and Jasp Go Wild" on spring break.

PATRICIA CONTINO

'Being Elmo: A Puppeteer's Journey'

Sunday, 4:30 p.m., Museum of the Moving Image, \$20

Everyone knows (and sometimes tickles) Elmo. But have you ever heard

the backstory of the puppet's creator? This documentary follows Kevin Clash from young creative who dreams of working with idol Jim Henson to the acclaimed performer he is today. Clash makes a special appearance after the screening.

LEAH TAYLOR
Shirts & Destroy presents 'The Exquisite Corpse'
Now through Oct. 9, Weds. through Sat., 8 p.m., Kraine Theater, 85 E. Fourth St., \$18

Featuring original artworks alongside a selection of wares, "The Ex-



► "Being Elmo: A Puppeteer's Journey."

quisite Corpse" spotlights art inspired by tattoos and doom metal — themes that drive art and design collective S&D. Working with such bands as Cave In, SunnO))) and Isis, the artists are clearly focused on wearing what they love on their sleeves — whether shirts or skins.

DOUG LEVY

'Medea'

Friday and Saturday, 7:30 p.m., Sunday 5 p.m., Japan Society, 333 E. 47th St., \$32

Director Satoshi Miyagi's use of bunkaru (replacing

traditional puppet-plus-operator with two actresses interpreting a character's voice and movement), and the all-male customers playing the Chorus, allow for a more balanced view of Medea's motivation for committing murder and infanticide. You've never seen Euripides like this.

PATRICIA CONTINO

MUSIC**Fleet Foxes****with The Walkmen**

Saturday, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., Williamsburg Waterfront, N. Eighth St. & Kent Ave., Williamsburg, \$40

Fleet Foxes blend the jangly folk-rock sound of the Zombies, the Beach Boys and Simon & Garfunkel. There are also more contemporary effects, like that of Rogue Wave and the Shins. Yet they carve out a sound that's all their own, crafting ethereal vocal harmonies over banjos, mandolins and tambourines.

JESSICA JARDINE

'Mogwai'

Monday and Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., Webster Hall, 125 E. 11th St., \$33

Scottish rockers Mogwai's latest, "Hardcore Will Never Die But You Will," continues this fine tradition (sample song title: "How to Be a Werewolf") as well as their knack for soaring feats of largely instrumental rock.

ERIC GRANDY

FOOD**Le Grand Fooding's****Exquisite Corpse**

Friday through Sunday, Honey Space, 148 11th Ave., \$100

Using the "exquisite corpse" premise of French surrealism, each chef uses something from his predecessor's meal to create his own. Each dinner lasts four hours, the event continuing nonstop for three days.

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Casino listings**Atlantic City****Music**

Enrique Iglesias with Pitbull and Prince Royce Friday, 7 p.m., Trump Taj Mahal Casino Resort \$78-\$98, 609-449-5150 www.trumptaj.com

Get The Lead Out

Friday, 8 p.m., House of Blues in Showboat Casino, \$17-\$23, 609-343-5700 www.showboataac.com

Commodores

Saturday, 9 p.m., Tropicana Casino and Resort \$25-\$50, 609-340-4020 www.tropicana.net

Darius Rucker

Saturday, 9 p.m., Caesars Atlantic City, \$40-\$60, 609-348-4411 www.caesarsac.com

IL VOLO

Saturday, 9 p.m., Borgata Hotel Casino & Spa, \$65-\$75, 609-317-1000 www.theborgata.com

Family

Mays Landing Fall Festival, Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. War Memorial Park Free, 609-625-1800

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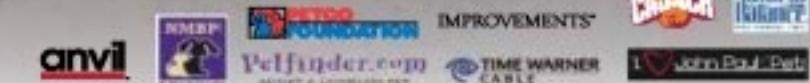
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THE WEEK THAT WAS

► Government killed a man this week ► In other news, Obama scares us more than necessary



BRAYDEN SIMMS

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Are we all Troy Davis?

"GA. EXECUTES TROY DAVIS AMID PROTESTS", CBSNEWS, SEPT. 22. This week, America executed a man it couldn't be sure was guilty. Overzealous prosecutors, uncaring jurists and an imperfect legal system combined to sign the death warrant on Troy Davis' life. Having spent nearly two decades in prison based on suspect testimony and no physical evidence, perhaps he welcomed the end. We can never know now — we can't un-kill Mr. Davis. And if it is indeed true that an innocent man has been killed, that also means a guilty murderer walks free.

Adorable headlines

"Facebook users not happy with changes"

WWW.CNN.COM, SEPT. 21

Yeah, but they're also not complaining about it on Google+, now are they?

"Government cost-overruns: \$16 muffins, \$8 coffee"

MSNBC.MSN.COM, SEPT. 21

Big deal, the government shops at Starbucks, too.

"How not to talk about vaginas"

GOOD.IS, SEPT. 19

With hand puppets.

"Obama: Plan 'not class warfare. It's math'"

UPI.COM, SEPT. 19

Oh sure, the one thing middle America hates even worse than class warfare.

"Pirate Party wins seat in Berlin"

SLASHDOT.ORG, SEPT. 18

They're the ones with the "Arrs" next to their names.

"Pastor says he prayed with people at Reno air race"

CBSNEWS.COM, SEPT. 18

Not well enough, apparently.

"How to quit smoking, stay slim"

ABCNEWS.GO.COM, SEPT. 18

Lung cancer.

"LA woman boasts longest tongue"

UPI.COM, SEPT. 17

Probably why Jim Morrison wrote that song.

"The 'What Would Jesus Do' condom"

HUFFINGTONPOST.COM, SEPT. 20

"No man cometh unto the Father, but by me." (John 14:6)

Horoscope

► Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23. If you know you don't have all the facts at hand, don't try to call the shots. Taking a speculative risk on something or someone can lead to big trouble.

► Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22. When that common sense of yours is telling you to disengage yourself from something questionable, don't ignore it. Remember, your better judgment is based on past experience.

► Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21. If you find yourself being disenchanted with the small stuff, it generally means your expectations are a bit too grand for your own good. Focus on quality, not size.

► Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19. Although your judgment appears to be pretty good in most situations, don't let that fool you. It could be a completely different story when it comes to money.

► Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 19. Your charm, wit and good looks are all valuable assets, but they will only carry you so far. It will take a whole lot of dedicated effort and experience to achieve success.

► Pisces Feb. 20-March 20. If you build your castle out of sand, all your wishes will quickly be swept out to sea by the first adverse wave. Be able to distinguish between what

is real and what is make-believe.

► Aries March 21-April 19. Keep your own counsel when it comes to your financial affairs, because although people might mean well they don't always know what's going on behind the scenes.

► Taurus April 20-May 20. If you want to be successful, it will be up to you to direct your own affairs. Do not leave even minor matters to chance, because the slightest occurrence can throw things off course.

► Gemini May 21-June 20. Someone who is overwhelmed might need your help, but do only what she or he wants and no more. You could unwittingly upset something the person already has going if you overstep your bounds.

► Cancer June 21-July 22. Upsetting information that you get from someone you don't know all that well shouldn't be taken too seriously without first checking things out.

► Leo July 23-Aug. 22. Certain advice you offer a friend will be sound and helpful, yet when it comes to your own affairs you might ignore the same good common sense.

► Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22. Make sure your judgment calls are all based on reality and not on wishful thinking. If you allow nonexistent factors to influence you, you'll quickly meet your downfall. BERNICE BEDE OSOL

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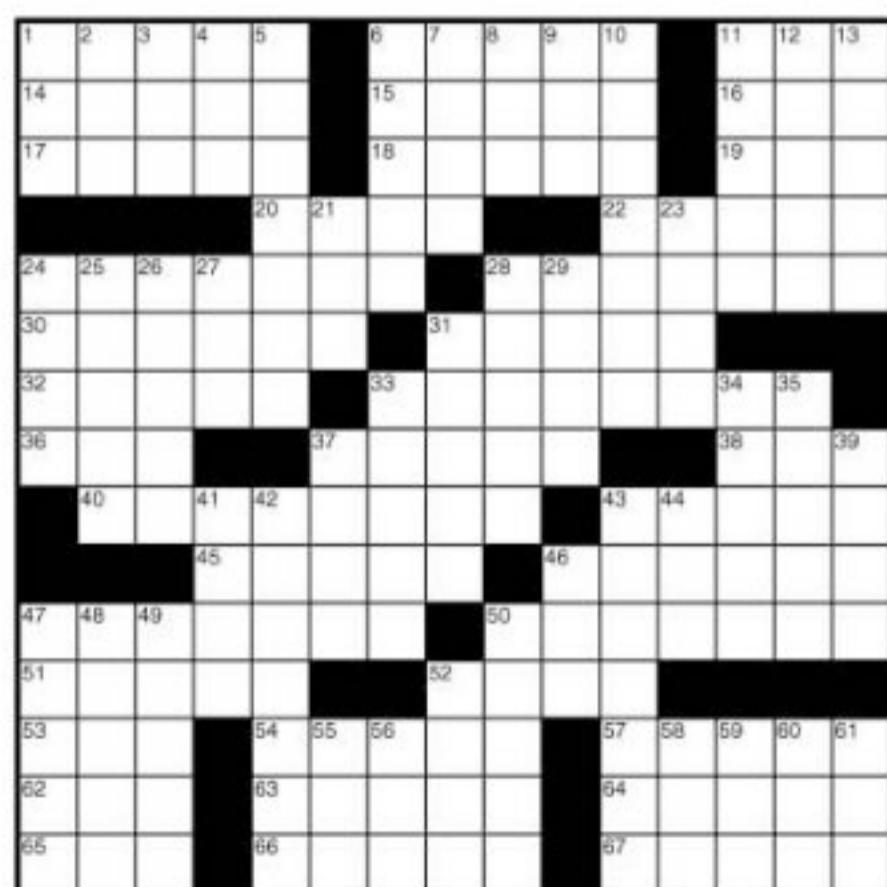
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Across

1 Europe's longest river
6 17-syllable poem
11 No.
14 Districts
15 Bygone
16 "Hot Ta Trot"
17 Burdens
18 Thinks ahead
19 Rub the wrong way
20 Heavy hydrogen discover
22 Grove
24 Intrigues
28 Gay Nineties prop
30 Chirped
31 Seattle's Sound
32 Wooden horse saga
33 Party
36 Koppel or Knight
37 Fine violin, briefly
38 Alamos
40 Makes camp
43 Harebrained
45 South Bend team
46 Lurch
47 Width
50 Many and different
51 100 kopecks
52 Hooray for me! (hyph.)
53 Police alert
54 Colder and wetter
57 Kidded around
62 Microscopic
63 Buoy up
64 Take the podium
65 Conducted
66 Enjoyed a repast
67 More logical

Down

1 Kilmer of films
2 Spanish gold
3 Grassy field
4 Traipse



5 Took for granted
6 Is optimistic
7 Band together
8 Snake River loc.
9 Barbie's beau
10 Remove, as a cap
11 Handy swabs (hyph.)
12 Upper body
13 Hayseed
21 Primary color
23 Vow
24 Kind of curl
25 Media star

26 Children's classic
27 Smog monitor
28 Wild cats
29 Made cheddar better
31 Veranda
33 Secret supply
34 Make changes
35 Large handbags
37 Business attire
39 New Year's Eve word
41 Perfume bottle
42 Bought by mail
43 Hogan dwellers

44 Suffix for press
46 British FBI
47 Noisy fight
48 Madras money
49 Dwindled
50 Had the nerve
52 Antoinette lost hers
55 Frazier foe
56 Opposite of ruddy
58 Tax shelter
59 FedEx truck
60 Summer, to Pierre
61 Rosenkavalier



SUDOKU LEVEL: EASY

Solution to Thursday's crossword



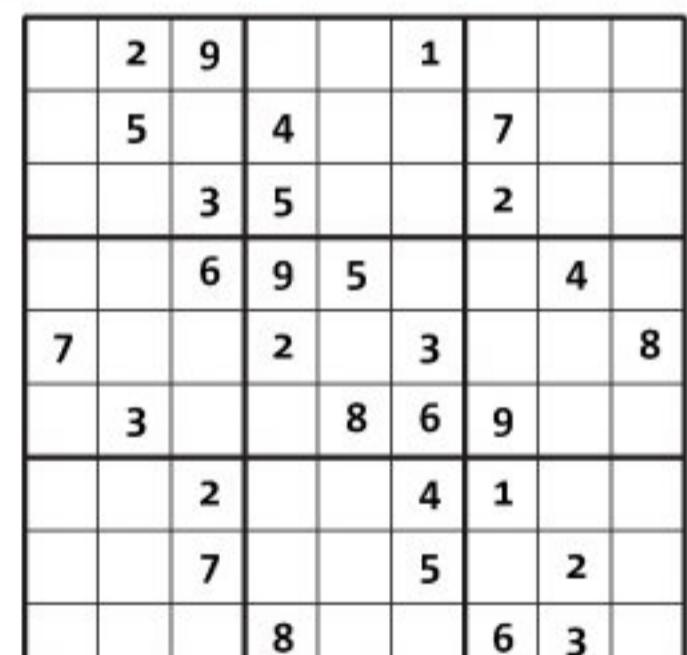
How to play Sudoku: Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

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SUDOKU LEVEL: HARD

GIANTS WANT VICK

The Giants don't care who starts under center for the Eagles in their pivotal divisional matchup because, to a man, they're confident they have a solution to whatever problem comes their way.

Whether it's Michael Vick, Vince Young or Mike Kafka, Big Blue says it's ready regardless of who gets the nod.

They clearly have a preference though. Vick, who's listed as questionable due to a concussion, will likely get the start and Giants head coach Tom Coughlin fully expects to see the dynamic passer.

"I want to see Vick. I think he's the best player at that position [for the Eagles]. He's the best player to give them an opportunity to

play their best ball," safety Antrel Rolle said. "I'm the type of guy, I like going against the best. If I don't go against the best, a win's a win, we'll always take a win, but it's always win when they have their better guys on the field."

Rolle added that should they beat a Vick-led team, perhaps it would exorcise the demons of their current



► Antrel Rolle

six-game losing streak to the Eagles — most notably the DeSean Jackson-led meltdown last December — Rolle acknowledged it's indeed in the back of his mind.

"It is what it is," Rolle said. "It took place last year. It's not something that we might ever forget, but at the same time, it's a new year."

● METRO/TW

3

In the news

Manny being Manny

The sound you hear is a million people sighing. Yes, Manny Ramirez is apparently returning to baseball after a retirement of four months, according to ESPN. The former Red Sox star will serve his 100-game suspension for PEDs if he returns. "I was not prepared for retirement," Ramirez said.

● METRO

Storylines to watch

► Week 3: Giants at Eagles, Lincoln Financial Field
► When: Sunday, 1 p.m., FOX5 ► What's next: at Arizona

1 A truly offensive offensive line

The Eagles may have been dubbed the "Dream Team," but their offensive line has been a nightmare.

If further proof is needed, just look at quarterback Michael Vick. The lithe passer has been banged around so far in this young season and may still feel the effects of a concussion he suffered last Sunday night.

Giants' defensive end Osi Umenyiora (knee) may return to go along with Jason Pierre-Paul and Justin Tuck. Outside linebacker Mathias Kiwanuka — a jack of all trades — could even see time at defensive tackle.

2 Can Giants' secondary become primary?

The Giants are stout against the run (third in the NFL in yards allowed), but terrible in pass defense — 24th overall at 283 yards per game.

They'll need to apply pressure to disrupt an offense that's best described as basketball on grass. The Giants' back four will be greatly exposed if Vick gets enough time to throw to deep threats DeSean Jackson and Jeremy Maclin.

Giants are dropping like flies in the secondary and their reserves haven't been much better.

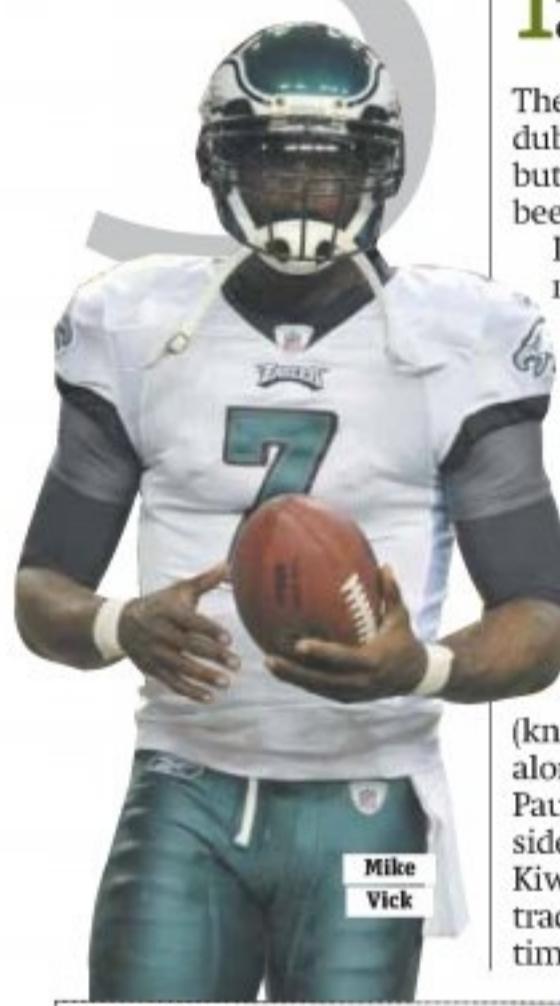
3 Running will be the name of the game

The Eagles' interior defensive line is as inconsistent as their struggling offensive line.

This could be a breakout game for Big Blue's running backs Ahmad Bradshaw and Brandon Jacobs, as offensive coordinator Kevin Gilbride should be calling nothing but runs early and often.

The less the Giants have to trust Eli Manning and his banged-up receiving corps, the better off the Giants offense will be.

● TONY WILLIAMS
sports@metro.us



Mike Vick

65

DeSean Jackson had a 65-yard punt return for a touchdown to defeat the Giants on the final play of the game in the teams' last meeting.

9

Players the Giants have on injured reserve this season. Domenik Hixon was the latest addition and the fifth with a knee injury.

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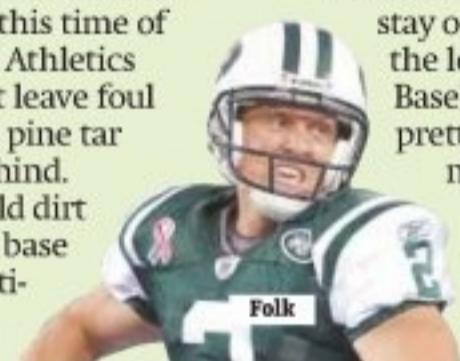
COMPLIMENTARY
ADMISSION
ALL NIGHT

Anyone for some baseball?

The Jets face the usual challenges on Sunday. An injury has sidelined Pro Bowl center Nick Mangold, the ground game is lagging and they face a Raiders team in a hostile environment. It makes for a daunting task.

Plus, you never know when a fair catch suddenly turns into the infield fly rule.

Since the Raiders and Athletics both call O.co Coliseum their home, the battle between baseball and football schedules overlaps this time of year. The Athletics don't just leave foul lines and pine tar scuffs behind. The infield dirt from the base paths testify that



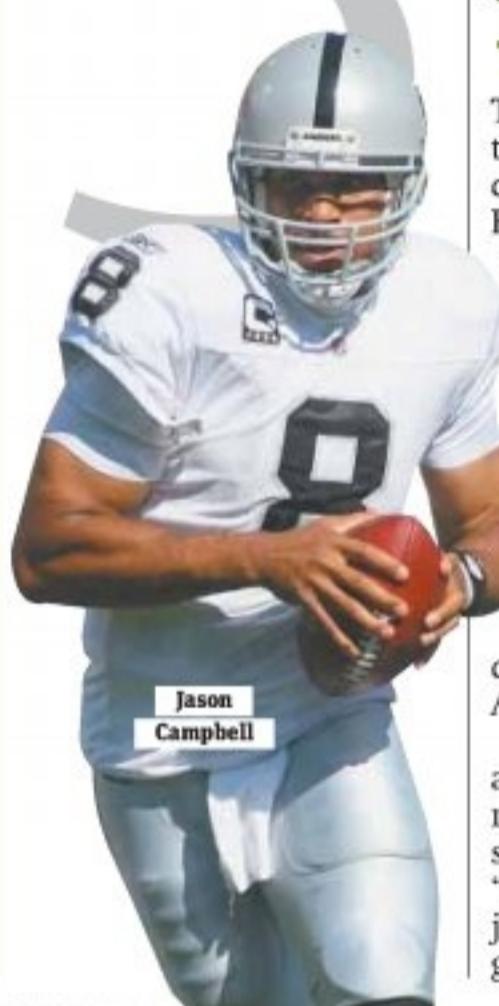
baseball is played here 81 times a year.

"On that dirt, you should be a lot faster than on the grass — that is, if you're going straight. But if you're cutting, that could be an issue with slipping," running back Shonn Greene told Metro. "I will only switch cleats if I'm really slipping, but I think with the longer cleats, that won't be an issue."

Kicker Nick Folk and punter T.J. Conley actually drove out to Newark Bears Stadium to kick off the dirt at the baseball field.

"It's hard as a rock. You want to be wearing something that will stay on top, grab the looser stuff. Baseball fields are pretty hard, it's not like kicking on a beach where you sink in," Folk said.

3



Jason Campbell

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WILL THE JETS UNLEASH PLAXICO BURRESS?

Storylines to watch

- ▶ Week 3: New York Jets at Oakland, O.co Coliseum
- ▶ When: Sunday, 4:05 p.m., CBS2 ▶ Next: at Baltimore

1 Oakland looking for a bounce back

This won't be the Raiders team that had a fourth quarter meltdown to the Bills in Week 2 in what was a disheartening 38-35 loss.

There is some fight in this team — a spirit that has been instilled by first-year head coach Hue Jackson. The Raiders will hope to come out strong, as they did in Buffalo last week, and see if they can put together a complete four quarters against one of the AFC's best teams.

"We have a long season ahead of us. We're not worried about keeping our spirits up," Jackson said. "Our spirits are fine. We just need to go finish a game and win a game."

2 Put the focus on stopping the run

While a lot of the emphasis this week has been on the Jets' anemic rushing offense, the attention should be on Oakland, who boasts a dangerous ground game of their own.

The one-two punch of Darren McFadden and Michael Bush has combined for 275 yards and two touchdowns. They use their running backs to open things up for quarterback Jason Campbell.

If the Jets can stop the run, they can take the Raiders out of their offensive rhythm.

3 A little more of the Plax please

After playing an important role in the Jets' Week 1 comeback win over Dallas, wide receiver Plaxico Burress was shut out of last weekend's game.

In fact, Burress was only targeted once by quarterback Mark Sanchez in the blowout win.

The Jets have a third-down conversion rate of just 34.6 percent in large part due to their inability to find Burress — a trend which must change soon.



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99

Total combined rushing yards for LaDainian Tomlinson and Shonn Greene through two games this season

82

Consecutive games started by Jets center Nick Mangold — every game since his rookie year. He is doubtful to play this weekend.

14

Number of tackles for Raiders safety Tyvon Branch. He leads the team and is one of the hardest hitters in the league.

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NFL Week 3: Breakdown

Patriots vs. Bills



The Bills — yes, the Bills — lead the NFL with 79 points scored and the team's 80 percent touchdown conversion rate in the red zone is tied for best.

The Patriots have beaten their rivals 15 straight times. Expect a shootout, and Mr. Brady and Co. to outdo the upstart Bills.

Pick: Patriots 34, Bills 27

Falcons vs. Bucs



Look for Josh Freeman, aka Mr. Fourth Quarter, to find a way in this one.

They're young and make mistakes, but the Bucs finish strong.

Pick: Bucs 27, Falcons 24



► It's time to get on the Matt Stafford bandwagon, everyone.

Lions vs. Vikings



Since 1990, Detroit's never been favored in a road game by more than three. Get aboard the Matt Stafford Express. It's not too late.

Pick: Lions 28, Vikings 23

• PETER SCHRAGER

4

With his interception last week, Charles Woodson has picked off four fellow Heisman Trophy winners — Cam Newton, Matt Leinart, Carson Palmer and Vinny Testaverde.



"I said this year, I'm going to try to be the black Wes Welker."

LIONS WR NATE BURLESON, WHO HAD NINE CATCHES LAST WEEK

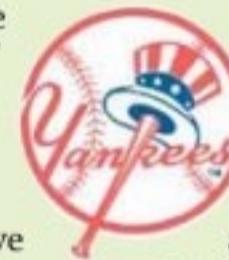
YANKEES VS. RED SOX

Martin calls out Red Sox

The days of players openly expressing contempt for another team seem to be a thing of the past. But not for Yankees catcher Russell Martin.

"Anything to get the Red Sox out [of the playoffs] would be awesome for me," Martin said less than 24 hours after the Yankees secured the AL East and on the eve of their three-game series with Boston this weekend.

It was not an extremely hateful answer such as would be expected from Carlton Fisk and Thurman Munson in the 1970s, yet it was a change from the normal bland



comments players often give, especially when Martin was asked why he felt so strongly.

"Because I hate the Red Sox," Martin said. "They are fun to play against because they have a quality team and they are gritty and they play hard and stuff. But I would love to see them lose."

When asked, manager Joe Girardi said that was the first he'd heard of the comments.

"I haven't heard anyone say anything about it," Girardi said.

"Obviously we know there's a lot at stake whenever we play these guys and there's a lot of pride on the line. There are a lot of expectations when these two teams play, but I have not heard anything."

"I don't ever like to fuel anything, that's the bottom line. But boys will be boys." • LARRY FLEISHER

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